



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 11, 2004

## COLORADO WOMAN ARRESTED WITH 37 POUNDS OF COCAINE PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY

Topeka, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Yolanda Marie Edgerton**, 46, Aurora, Co., has pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess more than 5 kilograms of cocaine. She entered a plea Jan. 7 before U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow in Kansas City, Kan.

In her plea, Edgerton admitted that on March 27, 2004, she was driving a white 1991 Mercedes-Benz near milepost 316 on I-70 when Kansas Highway Patrol troopers stopped her because she did not have a license plate in her rear tag brackets and they were unable to read the piece of paper posted in the rear window.

Troopers noted that she appeared unusually nervous and avoided eye contact, as well as the strong smell of air fresheners in the car. Edgerton agreed to allow the troopers to search the trunk where they saw a red gas can and noted the strong odor of gasoline. An examination of the gas tank showed that the tank recently had been altered. Troopers asked Edgerton to follow them to Junction City where they would continue to examine the car. Along the way, Edgerton's car ran out of gas and the officers emptied the gas can from the trunk into the fuel tank so Edgerton could complete the drive. Ultimately, troopers removed the back seat of the Mercedes and found a door, which opened to reveal 17 brick-shaped packages containing white powder. Lab tests confirmed the packages contained 16.86 kilograms – more than 37 pounds – of 86 percent pure cocaine hydrochloride.

Sentencing is set for 2 p.m. April 5, 2005, before Judge Crow. Edgerton faces a maximum sentence of not less than 10 years nor more than life in federal prison and a \$4 million fine. Melgren commended the work of the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration, which investigated the case and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough, who is prosecuting.